Read Nov. 1.

The Soc. of Inq.; after a very protracted & most stormy debate, determined not to continue this correspondence. C. H. M.

Mount St. Mary's College
7th Oct. 1854.

Dear Sir,

I have much pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of your letter of 28th ult. written on behalf of the Society of Inquiry of the Princeton Theological Seminary.

Although we have in our Seminary & College various Societies founded with a view to God's greater glory, & the salvation of souls, we have none exactly answering to the one, which you represent. I trust however, that I can furnish you with the information you seek. & can assure you, that it is to me a source of satisfaction to be able thus to meet you in a spirit of Christian charity.

You are aware, that we do not communicate "in sacris" with the members of any other religion; but it is indeed a mistake to infer from this, that we are wanting in true charity. Far from this being the case, all that concerns our neighbour's welfare is to us a matter of the most lively interest, & far above all else do we regard the welfare of immortal souls.

We long earnestly for the salvation of all: none are excluded from our prayers. The Ritual of the Church contains forms of prayer even for Pagans & Jews, & we are commanded to use them at stated times in the most solemn offices. In this spirit we daily pray for all, though perhaps more frequently, & more earnestly for those who now, as in every period of the Church's history, so cruelly misrepresent at once the doctrines of the Church, & those to whom the teaching of those doctrines is committed. We look with charity upon all; because all are children of the same Father:

We desire the salvation of all; because we know that God calls all to the knowledge of the truth on earth, & desires to give to all a crown of glory in Heaven.

As the salvation of all is the great end of God Himself in the creation of the world, the founding of His Church, & in the rich gifts of the Sacraments, which He so dearly purchased; so is it the one object for which we, His ministers, labour, & we should hold him unworthy of the Priestly dignity who would refuse to give his life itself for the salvation of a single soul.

Our Theological Seminary is but small in numbers, rarely counting more than from twenty to thirty members. These are all destined for the Sacred Priesthood, & we have reason to thank Almighty God that, by his grace all seem earnestly to labour in the acquiring of the virtues necessary for so Holy yet so difficult a State. The circumstances of the country do not admit of much being done here for foreign missions. Our energies, indeed, are severely taxed in our efforts to keep pace with the daily increasing demands made upon us from all quarters of the United States, & to provide Missionaries for the poor Indians who inhabit our north-western territories. The most active society in this branch of the Church's labours is, at present, that established at Lyons in France. By its aid missionaries are sent to every part of the world. They go to the field of their labours unencumbered by anything that could chain them to the world, prepared from the first to meet (as many every year do meet) death in their Master's service, & finding the labour of the Missionary best rewarded by the crown of the Martyr.

A band of ten persons subscribing each one cent a week in aid of the funds of this Society, may forward the amount yearly to the Rev.d J. Cokesy, V. G. Baltimore & will receive from him the "Annals" as they are published. I believe that you would find this little publication exactly meet the ideas of your Society. It consists of letters from the Missionaries, who are labouring in every quarter of the globe; & by the records of their patient toil & heroic deaths will not only shew you how truly the Apostolic Spirit is preserved down to the present day, but will most assuredly prove a continual source of edification.

The former students of our Seminary

are at present engaged in pastoral duties in every quarter of the United States

Amongst their number we are proud to reckon the late Bishop Gartland, who a few weeks ago fell a victim to the noble discharge of his duties amongst the sick & dying of Savannah. His clergy were prostrated by disease, he alone for a time discharged the duties of priest & Bishop. from forty to fifty souls a day received the last consolations of religion at his hands. & to be veiled on, like worn down with labour, & stricken with sickness. the good Shepherd laid down his life for the flock. I cannot forbear also mentioning the name of Bishop Barron who lately died in the same city. He belonged to a wealthy family in Ireland; but resigned all the comforts, whilst rank & fortune offered to him at home, to labour as a poor priest amongst us. This did not seem enough, & his true missionary spirit found a more fitting theatre on the west coast of Africa. There he remained until all his companions died of coast fever. He strove to find new labourers to take their place, determining to continue the work entrusted to him. A Society in France took up the mission, & their more ample means giving them greater prospects of success, he left the field open to them, & returned to labour amongst us. Here he continued to give help wheresoever souls stood in need of pastoral care. When fever desolated Savannah, he saw an opportunity of labour for the glory of God & the good of souls. & in a few days found the only death which was worthy to close such a life.

In our neighbourhood the Catholic is the prevailing religion, & we are happy to see, that there is in general a good tone of piety amongst the people, evinced by regular attendance at the Sacraments & by the consequent freedom from so many of the vices & disorders which now most deeply infect Society.

At the distance of about two miles from the College is the Convent & school of St. Joseph. conducted by the Sisters of Charity. As the two institutions are of late connected only by neighbourhood & friendship, I cannot furnish you with details of their present condition & operations. I know however, that the good Sisters, in addition to their labours in teaching, render invaluable services to the sick & poor. When, fourteen months ago the town of Emmitsburg was visited by the cholera, the Sisters were the

ever to be found, comforting the sick, & aiding the dying, whose tasks they assisted us in preparing for their last passage. As an instance of their ready zeal in the cause of charity, I would mention that on the occasion of the fatal railway accident on the last fourth of July, several of the Sisters were called off to Baltimore, at a few hours notice to wait upon the wounded, & this too, although they were well known as men bound by oath to injure the Catholic Church in every way, & who, then is too much cause to fear were meditating some new outrage at the very time of the accident. St Josephs is also the Mother House of the Order, & every year sends out several ladies to New Orleans & our other cities, to take the places of those whom the past year has added to the list of the Martyrs of charity, who form the true glory of their order.

I trust these few details may not be altogether without interest, & would once more assure you of our earnest desire to cultivate in every way, so far as possible without the sacrifice of Truth, the truest & best feelings of charity to all. Believe me that your Society shall have a place in our prayers & be remembered by us when we offer up the Holy Sacrifice.

I have the honour to be—

Dear Sir

Your mo. obt. Sert. in Christ

John W. Caffrey

To

Charles Howard Malcom
Cor. Sec. of Inquiry
Princeton Theological Seminary.